



**Prime Minister Narendra Modi being received by Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shitraj Singh Chouhan, on his arrival at Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh on Tuesday**

# ECHO WORLD

THE ECHO OF INDIA

PORT BLAIR • WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, 2018 • PAGE-7



**Prime Minister Narendra Modi handing over the cheque of Rs 2 Lakh to Manhi Bai Marko, under Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Beema Yojana, on the occasion of the National Panchayat Raj Day 2018, at Mandla, Madhya Pradesh on Tuesday**

**Modi-Xito try to reach consensus to resolve outstanding issues: China**

Beijing/New Delhi, April 24 /- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping will try to reach important consensus to resolve outstanding issues and build mutual trust when they meet for an informal summit in Wuhan in China later this week, a top Chinese official said today.

In New Delhi, sources said the meeting will not have an "issue-based discussion but a strategic conversation between the two leaders to understand each other's perspective on national and international matter". They were asked if the contentious issues like India's NSG membership bid and China blocking designation of Jaish-e-Mohammed and Masood Azhar as a global terrorist by the UN will be raised during the meeting on April 27-28. Sources also maintained that the summit was not aimed at "resetting" India-China ties.

Briefing newswriters in Beijing, Chinese vice foreign minister Kong Xunyou said: "Both sides have agreed not to sign an agreement or release any joint document but reach important consensus to resolve outstanding issues."

"This informal summit is the first of its kind in China and there is no precedent in each other's country. Kng said, explaining why both the leaders opted to hold the summit. "At the informal summit, the two leaders will have heart-to-heart discussions on overarching issues and try to build mutual trust and consensus to resolve outstanding differences," the minister stated. Asked whether the Doklam issue and the boundary dispute will figure in the talks, Kong said Doklam happened because of lack of trust.

"The two countries need to create conditions and trust between them to resolve the boundary issue," he added. Kong said both President Xi and Prime Minister Modi have strategic vision and historical responsibility. "Both of them have been widely supported by their people.

**Decision to reject CJJ impeachment came after due diligence : RS chairman**  
**■ Motion filed on untenable grounds to intimidate judges: Jaitley**

NEW DELHI, APRIL 24 /- Rajya Sabha chairman Venkaiah Naidu today said his decision to reject the impeachment motion against Chief Justice of India Dipak Mishra was "timely and not a hasty one" and came after over a month of due diligence, according to sources. Freedom of expression allows that but ultimately truth prevails. I have done the just thing in the best possible manner expected of me, sources quoted Naidu as saying, a day after he rejected the impeachment motion. He said his decision was in strict conformity with the provisions of the Constitution and the Judges Inquiry Act of 1968. "I have done my job and am satisfied with it," the Vice-President was quoted as telling a group of 10 Supreme Court lawyers who met him to compliment him over the decision. The Rajya Sabha chairman's office is not a mere post office but a constitutional functionary, Naidu, who is also the vice president, told the group.

According to sources, Naidu said the Chief Justice of India is the highest judicial functionary of the country and "any issue in public domain concerning him requires to be resolved at the earliest following prescribed procedures so as to prevent the atmosphere from being further vitiated". Naidu had on Monday rejected the notice by seven Opposition parties, led by the Congress, to impeach the chief justice of India on five grounds of "misbehaviour", saying the allegations were neither "tenable nor admissible". His order was slammed as "hasty, illegal and ill-informed" by the Congress. Meanwhile, Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said the rejected Congress-led impeachment motion against CJJ was filed on untenable grounds to intimidate the Chief Justice of India and other judges of the highest judiciary. In a Facebook post, Jaitley said an impeachment motion has to be filed in the rarest of rare cases where a "gross misconduct" has been indulged in by a delinquent judge during his tenure. There has to be strong and hard evidence to substantiate this, he said, adding that hearsay and rumors are not a sufficient basis for impeachment. "The present impeachment motion has been filed on untenable grounds. It has been filed for collateral purpose to intimidate the Chief Justice of India and other judges of the highest judiciary," said Jaitley, who is also the leader of the Rajya Sabha. In the post, "Why the Malafide Impeachment Motion was bound to fail", he said the Congress party is capable of dragging the judges into an unsavoury controversy and make them controversial "should their judicial opinion not appear favourable in the cases in which the Party has an interest". "To any political analyst it was clear that the impeachment motion would never get support of two-third majority in both Houses of Parliament. The Congress Party knew this. Its object was not the passage of the Motion but intimidation of India's judiciary," the finance minister said. Referring to the indication given by the Congress that it would now challenge the order of the Rajya Sabha Chairman in the Supreme Court, the senior BJP leader said Parliament is supreme in its own jurisdiction and its process cannot be subjected to judicial review. Jaitley noted that a very large number of eminent lawyers are now Members of Parliament and most political parties have given nominations to some of them since their value, both in court and Parliamentary debates, is significant. "The incidental impact of this has been a growing tendency of lawyer Members to drag intra court disputes into the parliamentary process. The misconceived motion for the impeachment of the Chief Justice of India is just one example of this," said Jaitley, who himself is an eminent lawyer.

**Survey conducted by the Times Now-VMR has indicated a "photo-finish" in the Karnataka Assembly elections, with the BJP and the Congress neck-and-neck.**  
 In the 224 member house, the Congress is likely to get 91 seats, and the BJP just two

## Fifteen more bodies of Naxals recovered, Gadchiroli encounter toll moves up to 31

GADCHIROLI, APRIL 24 /- Fifteen more bodies of Maoists, who were killed in an encounter with C-60 squad of commandos of the Maharashtra Police, have been recovered, taking the total number of casualties of Naxals in the Gadchiroli encounter to 31. "In the operation by C-60 squad in Kanasnur jungle area, 16 bodies of Naxals (9 men and 7 women) were recovered on April 22," a senior police official said today. "Due to heavy rain and paucity of manpower, search was stopped. Yesterday, an operation was launched

**KOLKATA, APRIL 24 /- The Trinamool Congress, one of the two major parties-the other is DMK - that did not support the Congress in its move to bring the impeachment motion against Chief Justice of India Deepak Mishra, today said it did not support the move because it did not want to interfere in judiciary.**  
 It was West Bengal chief minister and TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee who revealed this today during an interview to a private TV channel, that she even tried to dissuade Congress president Rahul Gandhi and senior leader Sonia Gandhi from bringing the motion, but in vain. "The Congress was wrong to give impeachment notice against the CJJ. They wanted us to support it. But we did not. I told Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi not to go for this but they did not listen. Our party does not want to interfere in the judiciary. The Calcutta High Court gave several orders which were in our favour but we respect judiciary, we do not want to interfere in its affairs," Mamata said. The chief minister also said that the Congress was most welcome to join the Federal Front provided that the grand old party was ready to accept the principle of fighting one-on-one, in the 2019 general elections. "We are working on the Federal Front comprising parties



**We did not support it because we did not want to interfere in judiciary**

**Calcutta HC directs SEC to consult stakeholders on security arrangements for panchayat polls**  
**■ Meeting on fresh dates for elections remains inconclusive**

**KOLKATA, APRIL 24 /- The Calcutta High Court directed the State Election Commission today to hold meaningful consultations with all stakeholders in West Bengal on security arrangements for the panchayat elections. Observing that the commission should be mindful of the Supreme Court directive on it to address grievances, Justice Subrata Talukdar made it clear that the SEC will be the final decision-maker on security arrangements. The court directed the SEC to inform a division bench presided by Acting Chief Justice J Bhattacharya on the security arrangements made for the elections. Justice Talukdar gave the direction after noting the concerns of Opposition political parties, which have petitioned the court over the necessity for sufficient security arrangements for the three-tier panchayat elections, nominations for which ended on Monday. The petitioners were given liberty to air their views on security arrangements before the division bench which is also seized of petitions on the issue. At least three persons have been killed and many others injured in pre-election clashes across the state. The BJP Congress and the Left parties have also filed widespread violence by activists of the ruling Trinamool Congress during the nomination process. The TMC has on the other hand blamed the opposition parties for vitiating peace in some parts of the state in the run up to the local body elections. The High Court had on April 20 quashed the SEC's April 10 order cancelling extension of the deadline for filing nominations and directed it**

to issue a fresh notification extending the date for filing nominations for panchayat polls in West Bengal upon consultation with the state and the major collective stake holders. Taking note of an order by the superior bench presided by the acting chief justice on April 6 on security arrangements, the court asked the petitioners to move the division bench, where a contempt application is also pending on the issue. The SEC has issued a fresh notification announcing April 23 as the extended



**Saurabh Das, officer on special duty for panchayat elections, coming out of SEC office after a meeting —Arijit Ganguly**

date for filing of nominations for the three-tier panchayat elections in the state. Hearing a PIL by state congress chief Adhir Chowdhury who alleged that opposition party members were being threatened and assaulted, the division bench had directed that police authorities, including the superintendents of police of the respective districts, shall extend all assistance and cooperation so that the person concerned can file the nomination paper. Chowdhury had also moved a contempt petition before the court alleging that the order has not been complied with. Meanwhile, the hour-long meeting of the State Election Commission (SEC) with the officials of the West Bengal panchayat department held today to the decide on the fresh dates for the rural polls in the state remained inconclusive, official sources said. The meeting will be again held on Wednesday, they said. The panchayat polls were earlier scheduled to be held on May 1, 3 and 5. However, after the Calcutta High Court order, the SEC had announced April 23 as the extended date for filing of nominations for the three-tier election. Scrutiny of the nominations received on the day will be held on April 25 and the last date for withdrawal of candidature is April 28, the SEC had said. A senior official said: "Tomorrow again there will be a meeting and after that dates might be announced." According to sources, the meeting is likely to be held tomorrow after 12 noon. The state Congress leadership staged a protest rally outside the SEC office during the day for its alleged failure to conduct the nomination process in a free and fair manner.

**Survey indicates 'photo-finish' in Karnataka polls**

NEW DELHI, APRIL 24 /- A survey conducted by the Times Now-VMR has indicated a "photo-finish" in the Karnataka Assembly elections, with the BJP and the Congress neck-and-neck.

seats fewer. The JD-S could emerge as the king-maker with 40 seats, the survey, conducted between April 4 and April 16, stated. "If polls were held now neither chief minister Siddaramaiah nor B S Yeddyurappa (of the BJP) is in a position to form the government as they are both well

short of the 112 mark," it said. As far as the choice for the chief ministerial post is concerned, Siddaramaiah leads the race with more than 46 per cent respondents voting for him. Yeddyurappa was the choice for the top post in the state for 32 per cent respondents, the survey stated. The survey

conducted by VMR for Times Now channel was had more than 4,000 respondents surveyed through stratified random sampling spread across all regions of the state. The Karnataka Assembly election will be held on May 12 and the counting of votes will be done on May 15.

**Terrorism enemy of basic human rights: Sushma**

BEIJING, APRIL 24 /- External affairs minister Sushma Swaraj today said that terrorism is an enemy of the basic human rights and the fight against it should also identify States that encourage, support and finance the menace and provide sanctuary to terror groups. Swaraj, during her address at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Ministers here, raised the issue of global terrorism and protectionism. There are a number of challenges that are being faced by the world today, foremost being the threat of global terrorism and the imminent need to build strong security architecture to combat it, the minister said. "Terrorism is an enemy of the basic human rights: of life, peace and prosperity," Swaraj said. "Protectionism in all its forms should be rejected and efforts should be made to discipline measures that constitute barriers to working with the SCO to strengthen our economic and investment ties. We have to have economic globalisation should be more open, inclusive, equitable and balanced for mutual benefits," the Union minister added.

### AT A GLANCE

**CBSE re-test today**  
 NEW DELHI: The Central Board of Secondary Education will conduct a re-test of Class 12 economics paper on Wednesday, nearly a month after it was leaked triggering widespread outrage and confusion among students across India. After reports of the leak surfaced on March 28, the CBSE announced it will re-conduct the examination on April 25.

### Four JeM terrorists killed in Pulwama

SRINAGAR: Four Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) terrorists were gunned down in an encounter by security forces' personnel also lost their life in a fierce encounter that broke out in the forest area of Pulwama district in Jammu and Kashmir, an official said. Based on intelligence developed by police on the presence of terrorists, security forces launched an operation in the forest area of Pulwama, the police official said. A gun battle broke out when the militants opened fire on the security forces, he said. (PTI)



**CRPF jawans stand by bodies of slain Naxalites in Gadchiroli**

to search for bodies in Indravati river and 15 more bodies were recovered," the official said. Search for more bodies and weapons is going on, he said. In another operation in Kapewancha area of Rajaram Khanda post Monday, six Naxals were killed and their bodies recovered. These include two men and four women, the official said. Maharashtra Director General of Police (DGP) Satish Mathur said the massive operation against Naxals was a result of "accurate and specific" intelligence, low morale of Naxals and divisions in their ranks.